

■ LETTERS

Too many users

I found myself laughing after reading Anne Moser-Kornfeld's column on the Internet in Wednesday's paper (*ODE*, Oct. 12). She portrays the Internet as a forum where proper grammar should prevail, somehow different from written or spoken forms of communication. She also uses the same trite terms like "I-way" and "Netiquette" that most productive Internet users can't stand.

The Internet is a very effective way to access mass amounts of information, as well as communicate with people across the globe — not a moderated environment where people should abide by net "rules of thumb." I don't advocate potentially destructive behavior, but rather encourage all forms of unrestricted speech. Maybe the problem is that too many people out there have subscriptions to *Wired*...

Frank Gallina
Student

On-line woes

With all the bugs and problems I've been encountering with the University's e-mail system, I'm beginning to wonder if the \$50 technology fee is really worth it. I've also wondered about the technicians hired by the school to work on the systems. I've asked the on-line consultants on numerous occasions about certain problems, and they are as stumped as I am.

On one occasion, I inquired about the "talk" function. All the consultant could say was, "Due to limited resources, I am unable to offer any consultation on the 'talk' functions...." Limited resources? Isn't everyone's \$50 enough?

Well, I'm suggesting that the *Emerald* do a story on the problems students might have had with the system, and what exact-

ly they are doing with the money other than just getting new computers.

Bruce Hsiao
Sociology

Womack's club

On Oct. 14, (*ODE* columnist) Brian Womack dared to disagree with the statistics for the numbers of gays and lesbians in this country. Although this made a lot of people angry, Womack unwittingly cut to the heart of the problem: whether there are 500, 5,000 or 5 million gays and lesbians in this country is completely irrelevant. What is important is whether or not these people have the same rights as everyone else in this country.

"If someone is gay or lesbian they will be afforded the same protection as everyone else," Womack says. There are many people who would disagree with him. For instance, Sharon Bottoms, who lost custody of her child for no reason other than her sexual orientation. Or how about Harvey Milk, who was murdered because he was a gay public official, and whose murderer, Dan White, spent only two years in prison for the crime. Certainly Womack has heard of the hundreds, if not thousands, of people in the military who have lost their careers, along with the right to serve their country, because of their sexuality. These are high-profile instances of discrimination, the most glaring case of inequality. Let me assure you, Mr. Womack, that every gay person you might meet has similar stories of how equal protection

has not applied to them.

It's time for people to wake up to the facts; gays and lesbians are not given equal protection under the law. The best way to do this is through making institutionalized homophobia illegal. Not through a quota system, not through a civil rights bill, but a simple law that makes it illegal to deny anyone their children, home or livelihood because of their sexual orientation. You may say that sexuality is a behavior, and therefore a changeable characteristic. However, religion is also a behavior, and it is illegal to discriminate against someone based on their faith (or lack thereof).

Before you cry "political correctness," let me be absolutely clear that it is not important to the majority of gays and lesbians whether or not you think our sex lives are wonderful. If you really believe that what I do is disgusting, it is your right to think so. It isn't your right, or shouldn't be anyway, to legislate public opinion in your favor. It isn't mine either.

One more thing, Mr. Womack. If National Coming Out Day made you feel guilty for being homosexual, maybe you should do something about that. Why don't you form a straight student union? How about a "Straight White Male Pride Parade?" I'd be happy to help you get it off the ground, since some of my best friends are straight white males, many of them Republicans, just like me. Give me a call, I'm in the book. We'll have coffee.

Jodi Mai
Sociology

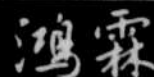
■ LETTERS POLICY

The *Oregon Daily Emerald* will attempt to print all letters containing comments on topics of interest to the University community.

The *Emerald* reserves the right to edit any letter for length or style.

Fortune Inn

Chinese RESTAURANT



Looking for a new restaurant?
Give us a try!

1775 West 6th Ave., Eugene, OR 97402 • 342-2616

Tired of Burgers?

Free Low Fat Cooking Workshop

- * Learn to cook with less fat on a student's budget
- * Hints on grocery shopping
- * How to read food labels
- * Tips on low-fat cooking
- * Hands-on cooking

Meets four consecutive Tuesdays

(Oct. 18-Nov. 8)

4:30-6:00 p.m.

in the Student Health Center.

To register, or for more information, call

346-4456

(or come by the Peer Health Advisers' office)

LAST DAY TO REGISTER!



UO Student Health Center
Health Education Program

TRACK TOWN GIVES YOU MORE OF WHAT YOU WANT!



A.Y.C.E. PIZZA & SALAD BAR!

(all you can eat)

only **\$4.95**

Available Mon-Fri
11AM-1:30PM

Good at Franklin Blvd. Store only

LATE NIGHT SPECIAL

Medium 1 Item
Pizza for only...

\$7.95

additional toppings
available

From 10:00PM till close • 7 days a week



TRACK TOWN PIZZA
484-2799

Two convenient locations to serve you:

CAMPUS 1809 Franklin Blvd. • WEST 2511 W. 11th & Wilson